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Barometer 29.74

Rainfall 1.09 inch

Humidity 95

May 28, 1920, Temperature 83

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HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1921

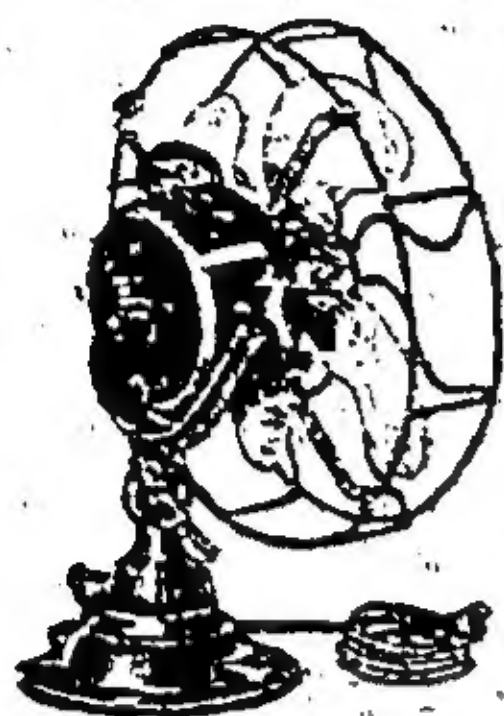
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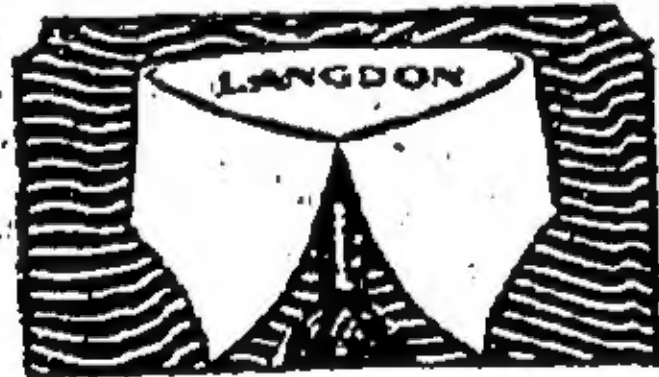
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TO-DAY'S CABLES.

(Reader's Service to the China Mail)

COAL DEADLOCK.

YESTERDAY'S MOMENTOUS CONFERENCE

PREMIER'S NEW PROPOSAL

LONDON, May 27.

The momentous coal conference met at the Board of Trade at noon. Public interest and anxiety was evidenced by a large crowd outside the building. Mr. Lloyd George, who was accompanied by Sir Robert Horne and Messrs. Bridgman, Baldwin, Macnamara, and Brace, appeared to be in the best mood and remarked as he entered "It should not take so long to-day." The conference, which the Premier addressed/lasted, three quarters of an hour, after which the parties separated to discuss the position individually. The Premier in his speech outlined the Government's proposal, namely a temporary settlement by which wages could be scaled down gradually to an economic level, the deficiency being made up from a composite fund consisting of £10,000,000 from the Government which would not be increased and a contribution involved in the proposal of the owners to forego profits for a period. The Government's offer depended upon agreement being reached either with regard to the actual terms of a permanent settlement or for machinery which would determine those terms. As regards a permanent settlement he suggested that if the parties saw no immediate prospect of agreeing with regard to figures they should at any rate agree definitely to regard machinery by which the figures could be determined.

8 HOUR DAY CONVENTION.

LEGISLATION IN BRITAIN INEXPEDIENT AT PRESENT.

LONDON, May 27.

The House of Commons rejected by 109 votes to 69 a motion moved by Mr. Barnes demanding the submission to Parliament of the convention adopted at the International Labour Conference at Washington. Mr. Barnes complained that the Government had failed to give effect to the labour chapter of the Versailles Treaty. Mr. Macnamara declared that it was inexpedient at present to proceed with legislation giving effect to the Washington Convention on the hours of labour. He pointed out that most of the proposals of the conference were already in operation in Britain but there were difficulties in applying some of the provisions of the 8-hour day convention in Britain, especially as regards railwaymen and seamen. After careful consideration the Government had decided that these provisions were not appropriate to conditions here.

AMATEUR GOLFERS.

POSTAL EMPLOYEE WINS CHAMPIONSHIP

LONDON, May 28.

In the amateur golf championship final Hunter (Walmer) beat Graham (Liverpool) 12-11. Hunter is a postal employee. His son is a professional. Graham captained the Oxford golfers in 1905. Graham's defeat is a record for the amateur championship final. Hunter played brilliantly, especially in approaching a course sodden with rain. Both finalists are Anglo-Scots.

UNCONFIRMED REPORT.

JAPANESE SCHOONER SEALING IN CANADIAN WATERS?

PRINCE RUPERT, BRITISH COLUMBIA, May 27.

The report that a Japanese schooner was caught sealing in Canadian waters, that the crew were arrested, seal skins confiscated, and the schooner destroyed has hitherto not been confirmed officially.

STERLING'S SENSATIONAL DECLINE.

GERMANS SELLING BRITISH BILLS?

NEW YORK, 27.

Sterling made a sensational decline of six cents. This is attributed to the German selling of British bills in order to convert the proceeds into dollars.

CHI-CHI MISSION.

BELGIAN COMMERCIAL METHODS TO BE STUDIED.

BRUSSELS, May 28.

A Chinese mission has arrived here to study Belgian methods of industry and commerce.

COUNTY CRICKET.

LONDON, May 27.

Middlesex beat Warwick by 177 runs; Gloucester beat Leicestershire by 153 runs; Cambridge beat Yorkshire by 123 runs, Essex beat Derby by an innings and 74 runs; and Hants and Lancs played a draw.

BUBONIC PLAGUE OUTBREAK.

MEXICO CITY, May 27.

Forty cases of bubonic plague have been notified in Mexico.

DERBY SCRATCHING.

LONDON, May 27.

Pisto has been scratched from the Derby.

THE DOLLAR.

Today's closing rate 2/5 7/8

Today's opening rate 2/6 1/8

SPECIAL CABLE.

RUBBER SLUMP.

LOWEST PRICE YET.

[China Mail Special.]

SINGAPORE, May 27.

At an auction rubber touched the lowest price in the annals of the industry, sheet was sold at from 17 to 27 1/2 cents. No standard crepe was sold.

CRICKET INTERPORT.

HONGKONG'S 2ND INNINGS.

FULL SCORES.

Below we give the full scores of Hongkong's second innings in the cricket interport at Shanghai, which closed on Thursday.

HONGKONG—2ND INNINGS.			
G. R. Sayer, c O'Hara b Leach	31		
F. J. de Rome, b O'Hara	13		
Lt. I. B. Franks, R.N., b Leach	15		
Capt. C. O. Oliver, c Barrett b O'Hara	8		
A. A. Rumbold, not out	34		
R. E. A. Webster, b Leach	2		
C. I. Stapleton, b O'Hara	1		
Major H. G. Bagnall, c Oller-	25		
nessen b O'Hara	6		
Capt. P. Havelock-Davies, b O'Hara	5		
E. B. Reed, l.h.w. O'Hara	9		
F. H. Farthing, l.h.w. Wainwright	2		
Extras	2		
Total	151		

Bowling analysis.

	O.	B.	R.	W.
O'Hara	34	7	62	6
Allison	9	1	25	0
Rhodes	3	0	10	0
Leach	19	4	14	3
Hansell	3	0	10	0
Wainwright	15	0	1	1

Shanghai's first innings, 291 runs.
Hongkong's first innings, 80 runs.
Shanghai won by an innings and 160 runs.

Yesterday evening, the Shanghai Club gave a dinner in honour of the interports.
According to a telegram received by Mr. L. S. Greenhill, Hon. Secretary of the Hongkong Cricket Club, to-day and to-morrow will be occupied with a friendly match between eleven representing Hongkong and Shanghai. Both teams will be drawn from players outside those who figured in the interport contest.

The names of Messrs. Taylor, Hamilton, Freeborn, Ng Sze K ong, Woodhouse and Cobb, will most probably figure in the Hongkong team. While young Ollerdissen and Morris who were here with the Shanghai interport team are sure to play for the Northern Settlement.

This evening at 9.15, the Hongkong Interport team will be entertained at another performance at the Lyceum Theatre.

To-morrow the Shanghai Cricket Club holds its American lawn tennis tournament, and some friendly matches have been arranged for the Hongkong Chinese players who are in Shanghai to represent China in the Far Eastern Olympiad early next month.

The Hongkong interports will leave Shanghai on June 2 by the C.M. s.s. "Nanking."

WHY

IS A DRUGGIST CALLED AN "APOTHECARY?"

The radical difference between the apothecary of old and the druggist or pharmacist of to-day is apparent at once from the lines which occur in the fifth act of "Romeo and Juliet," where Romeo remarks: "I do remember an apothecary, whom late I noted in tattered weeds, with overhanging brows, culling of simples, meagre were his looks, sharp misery had worn him to the bones; about his shelves a hazy account of empty boxes were thinly scattered to make a show." But, even in these days, the "culling of simples" was an integral part of the apothecary's art, though the prescription department has sunk almost into oblivion in the establishment of the latter-day druggist, whose candy counter and soda fountain bring in far more revenue than the section devoted to medicine.

Taking into consideration the vast assortment of different goods which are to be found in practically every pharmacy to-day—goods ranging all the way from fountain-pens to hair-oils—it is interesting to note that the druggist really has authority for this heterogeneous collection of goods in the very derivation of the word "apothecary," for this is from the Greek *apotheka*, which was practically the equivalent of our "store-room" or "warehouse."

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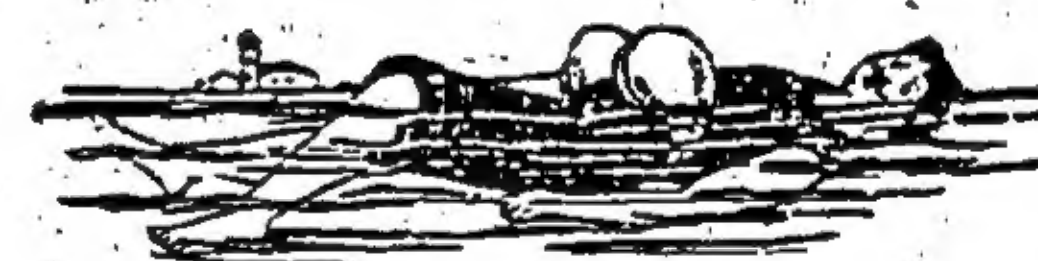
The Blue Bird and

The Grasco Egyptian Tobacco Store.

Or from

The Gledale & Terramia Tea Agency.

DANIELS & CO., 17, Wyndham (Flower) Street.



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The China Mail.

"TRUTH, JUSTICE, PUBLIC SERVICE."
HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1921.

ADVERSARIA.

EMPIRE DAY.

As I got me no holiday on Tuesday that was Empire Day, and it rained hard and had a gloomy sky, I could not succeed in feeling patriotic. In fact, I did feel a most strong desire to say something ill-natured about it, and about the morning papers which did crow concerning it. So I read the *Daily Press* article with more care, and saw therein the statement (in no way hostilely commented upon) that the great and glorious empire on which the sun never sets, and Lord Meath never shuts up, and scragging never stops, has only 65 millions of self-governing citizens out of a population of 500 millions. Thirteen per cent. of "citizens"—the remaining 87 per cent. are "subjects." And I wondered greatly why the *Daily Press*, that is strong for Constitutional Reform, did not seize this opportunity to point out that we enlightened Hongkong folk are merely "subjects." What a chance missed!

And then, my breakfast not containing the ingredients I prefer, and the rain still coming down, I fell a-thinking about what the D.P. called our "pardonable pride," and about Winston Churchill, and Horatio Bottomley, and the coal miners, and the Irish, and about Westmen like Lloyd George and Billy Hughes, and

much that men should remember and about time, so regarded; it is "absolute," that one minute passed before the present minute began, and that no matter what happens, including the dissolution of the universe into cosmic dust, one minute must succeed it, and so, both ways, ad infinitum. But suppose we stop counting? Stop talking of time? Experience, (sensation) continues. Time is in no wise a factor, much less a conditioning factor, of experience. Your mathematician, measuring miles in terms of light-speed, both here and on the sun, and getting quaint paradoxes from his "pure" formulae, could play the same game here if he liked. For instance, a mile equals 15 minutes of a man's life. (Pedestrian formula, motoring ignored.) Let us therefore speak of a human-life-mile and call it one two-and-a-half-millionth. If we could take that mile into Snailtown, we would find it necessary expressed by the formula, 8121 lives, or 2452800 multiplied by that figure, which at once gives us "relativity." But if for purposes of marine sounding we buy piano-wire, to cover the same mile, we find it "absolute" by the seller's yard measure, which records 1760. Does this prove that the yard measure was elastic, or that the wire had stretched, or that a snail lives longer than a man? Einstein could tell you. I won't.

DINNER WITH MISCHA.

Dined with Mischa Elman one night this week. Mischa is one of the world's greatest violinists, but that is little to me. The fact that he is a good fellow, and a bit of a thinker, as well as a lively table talker, means more. In several ways he reminded me of poor dear Dan Leno, whom I used to know. The same refined face, the same tender smile, and tricks of expression sometimes startlingly reminiscent of the dead. Mischa is "down" on Lenin and his doctrines, so of course I pretended to be a Bolshevik by conviction, and we had a lively argument. No decision given, but I guess Mischa won on points.

FROM MY POST-BAG.

"Dear and Precious Adversarius.—N.B. that the H.K.C.C. ground is being re-turfed. Suggest you ask (1) if this is being done at the expense of the Government, and (2) if so, on what ground."

Yours admirably
Peninsular.

This nearly insular correspondent's second question is surely superfluous, since he himself has told us "on what ground" the re-turfing is being done. If, however, the job is being done with public money, we ought to be told why this club is so favoured. Turfing is a serious drain upon the finances of other clubs. This particular cricket ground is public land, of course, but in effect the junior talpans have the exclusive private use of it, and should pay for its upkeep. There must be no favouritism! However, before I lash myself into the desired fury of moral indignation, perhaps we'd better have Question No. 1 asked first. Well, is that re-turfing being paid for out of the public funds, R.S.V.P., any official that knows.

TIME.

A striking illustration of the need for the *China Mail* leader of Tuesday, pointing out that a man of certain attainment in one branch of science is not necessarily a valuable witness regarding some other branch, is afforded by a letter from a local chemist, who says that the *China Mail* case against Einstein rests upon a misconception. "The theory of relativity," he says, "states that (a) our present space-conceptions, based on an immovable world, are wrong, since no one can know exactly whether he and his universe are tending; (b) that since Time is one of the conditioning factors of all experience our sense of Time is probably (by analogy) as relative as our sense of space, and possibly as erroneous. Hence the Past-in-Future cry. Einstein tells us that we have no definite knowledge either of Space or Time. Both are relative, and we have no starting point from which to measure."

That is bosh. If Einstein does say that we have no definite knowledge of space or time (though I don't think he says that) he talks nonsense. My conception of space is not based on an immovable world. I conceive space as nothing, or no matter, and my world moving in it. I do not try to measure space, but the things I perceive to be present in it. So far as pure thinking is concerned, the word "space" is unnecessary, and the idea of it. It is merely a turn of speech. Space is like not having tooth-ache. I cannot tell you to what extent I have not got toothache—it is an "absolute" no-got—but I can try, in my feeble human way, to describe to you the extent of the pain ("relative") when I have it. I do not know whether my "universe" is tending. I don't know that it is tending anywhere, or that there is anywhere for it to tend to. For all I know, or can know, it is eternal.

I do not regard Time as a "conditioning factor of all experience." It is only a factor conditioning attempts at describing experience. The word time, like the word space, is a mere turn of speech, a convenient formula for recording sequence of sensations. These "scientists" (with their light-speed and clocks on the sun) use as factors various clock times, Greenwich time, Standard time, local time, solar time, and so on, and get "relativity," but they overlook Universal Time, which is conceivable and absolute, and in the nature of things must be Eternity, because there is no moment thinkable which is not preceded or succeeded by another. We measure time by day and night, for convenience, and by moons, but universal time (which alone the metaphysician should regard) transcends those phenomena. Drop all that, and measure time by heart beats. Do not regard your own first heart-beat as No. 1, nor even Adam's, but assume that heart-beats are constant. It would be impossible to use the cumbersome figures then necessary for dates. Adam's first heart-beat might be (say) number one of series Z of the millionth million. The number of your own heart-beat as you read this would be inconceivable.

Yet there is nothing "relative" about time, so regarded; it is "absolute," that one minute passed before the present minute began, and that no matter what happens, including the dissolution of the universe into cosmic dust, one minute must succeed it, and so, both ways, ad infinitum. But suppose we stop counting? Stop talking of time? Experience, (sensation) continues. Time is in no wise a factor, much less a conditioning factor, of experience. Your mathematician, measuring miles in terms of light-speed, both here and on the sun, and getting quaint paradoxes from his "pure" formulae, could play the same game here if he liked. For instance, a mile equals 15 minutes of a man's life. (Pedestrian formula, motoring ignored.) Let us therefore speak of a human-life-mile and call it one two-and-a-half-millionth. If we could take that mile into Snailtown, we would find it necessary expressed by the formula, 8121 lives, or 2452800 multiplied by that figure, which at once gives us "relativity." But if for purposes of marine sounding we buy piano-wire, to cover the same mile, we find it "absolute" by the seller's yard measure, which records 1760. Does this prove that the yard measure was elastic, or that the wire had stretched, or that a snail lives longer than a man? Einstein could tell you. I won't.

EGYPTIAN RHYTHS.

A local paper had a whole column about the recurrence of riots in Egypt, and yet in some speculations as to the causes, quite overlooked the most obvious connection between cause and effect. Winston Churchill recently visited Egypt.

OUR TRAINS.

I'm afraid I will be held personally responsible for the tone and diction of the letter by "Wet, but Happy," in Wednesday's *China Mail*. I have already corrupted the style of the other three papers, and now, as witness two examples this week, even our staid old friend "Pro Bono Publico" is deserting dignified verbosity for satirical persiflage. Perhaps it will do no harm. Seriously, quite a lot could be said about the way our street cars are in no way designed with an eye to the comfort or health of the public. The very steps are too high and too narrow. Insufficient knee space is allowed. The driver should be absolutely fenced off, instead of, as now, standing on the toes of passengers. And the awning over the top should be rigid. At present it collects water that could be simply made to flow away, and distributes it on seats and passengers long after the rain has stopped. The single-deckers shoot off the water in concentrated waterpots exactly where the front seat people sit. With only a little thought and contrivance, and practically no expense, all these very real discomforts could be abolished. In an American city they would not be tolerated a week. Here they will probably last for years, because the public is habitually scorned even by those who live by it.

THE GYPSIES.

The *Japan Chronicle* most certainly made a wrong guess, and one unjust to the Japanese, when it suggested that they, and not the Chinese, probably started the rumours about the Hongkong Governor's trip to Peking. Thursday's *Morning Post* said it wasn't true that the Chinese started them. I am afraid there is no doubt that the *China Mail* set the ball a-rolling, with its facetious suggestion that the Governor's trip and Sir Robert Ho Tung's were not fortuitously coincidental. That was the first yelp; the packat once joined in. This is history made.

MEDIUM HERE.

A local advertisement, giving the Post Office as the address, announces the advent in Hongkong of a Spiritualistic Medium, who calls herself Sister Caroline. She would like to meet other spiritualists. Any chance of an invitation for some of us who are not spiritualists? I fear not. Now that there is a heavier duty on the importation of spirits, I suggest the authorities should investigate this lady's business.

O! Caroline.

It would be fine
To bring in spirits free;
But I don't drink,
And I don't think
Your spirit I shall see.

SENSIBLE VERSES.

These by Robert Loveman are worth copying and keeping:

"What care I for cast or creed?
It is the deed, it is the deed!
What for class, or what for clan?

It is the man, it is the man!
It is of love and joy and woe,
For who is high and who is low,
Mountain, valley, sky and sea
Are for all humanity.

"What care I for robe or stole?
It is the soul, it is the soul!
What for the crown or what for chest?

It is the soul within the breast,
It is the faith, it is the hope,
It is the struggle up the slope,
It is the brain and the eye to see,
One God and one humanity."

"We must already have had the total of our annual average rainfall," suggests a correspondent, who has the cheek to ask me to verify it. Things like that are spoiled by verification. Suppose the figures should show a little less—a nice dinner-table remark is spoiled. The statement is spiritually true, whatever the figures may show. It merely means that we have had a lot of rain lately. Anyway, figures bore me.

IN A COMMONPLACE AFFAIR.

We are very intimate, and I walked into his bedroom without knocking. I was at once struck by his extraordinary antics. He stood on one leg and, stretching his right arm over his left shoulder, took hold of his right leg and appeared to be trying to lift it under his left armpit. He was as like the Laocoon as anything I ever saw. "What's the game?" demanded I. "Is it some new form of calisthenics, or are you training to be a contortionist?" He looked at me over his shoulder, and remarked, "Prickly heat."

COMMON SENSE.

Commonsense is not common, says the cynic. It is a word not easily defined, and its derivation is doubtful. Dr. Brewer does not think it refers to the average capacity for judgment common to men, but to the judgment that is based exclusively on the five senses that are common to men. "Seeing is believing" is in that case a commonsense remark, and we know that "appearances are deceitful." No doubt, "Robert McWhirter" thought his attitude this week towards the Einstein debate a commonsense one; but it wasn't. It was that of a baby playing with a watch, or of a monkey with a cork-screw. It might amuse the baby, or mamma, but it wasn't otherwise sanctioned.

NAMBY PAMBY, ESQ.

The subject of our sketch is a journalist who has attained venerable years, and whose writings are warmly appreciated by that large body of the public which enjoys a comfortable measure of intellectual inadequacy, prefers the safe, non-committal, and obvious, and retains its infantile conviction of the digestibility and nutritiousness of pap. His skill and dexterity are noteworthy. It is he who keeps in the forefront of public attention and consciousness the eternally irrefutable truth that so long as it does not fair up the weather is likely to continue wet.

SKEETER SANITATION.

Although well-meant, and intelligent, and for all I know doing some good, the Sanitary Board's campaign against the mosquito, in view of the newest information, strikes me as an emulation of Mrs. Partington sweeping back the Atlantic with a broom. I fear it is a waste of money and energy. If the mosquito can fly long distances, it can breed in briny pools along the shore, much of this costly work is waste. Cutting down the underbrush on the hillsides—in view of the plentiful lurking places left—is rather like that vow of Tom Sawyer and his mates, when they got religion and decided not to steal fruit. In practice later they decided to apply the vow to one particular fruit, and chose persimmons, because they were not ripe, and they didn't care much for them anyway. This left a wealth of fruit for their sinful depredations, just as the Sanitary Board campaign leaves a million facilities for Madame Mosquito to continue her maternal profligations.

NOT TRUE.

Evelyn Underhill, who mystified us before the war in a then popular way with a book about Mysticism, goes on writing. In the *Hibbert Journal* recently she had an article that was more intelligible, professing to interpret the dominant mood of the civilized world—rather a big order. We are told that humanity's present prevailing mood is one of "unhappiness, depression, unrest... obsessed by anxieties and suspicions, uncertain in its hold on life. It has forgotten joy." Evelyn Underhill must have been reading the ordinary newspapers, the calamity howling. Jeremiah-Press. Bless her! the world is not fairly represented by them. It has not, never has and never will, "forgotten joy." The Labour Leader goes home from the meeting at which he has frothed at the mouth, and grins widely at the antics of his youngest, while, sniffing appreciatively the odours of the meal his Men prepares. Prancing pre-consuls, involved in grave affairs of state, have their moments of private joy, perhaps chucking some lady under the chin and murmuring the word "darling" in the most heartfelt way. Governors spare a moment to bend proudly over cradles, and even editors may have their bestial joys between peals of literary thunder. In short, almost everybody is human, and living as it were two lives—the one, may be, anxious and strenuous and viable, the other domestic and intimate and instinctive. However worried, however poor, however busy a man may be, he does not forget joy; nor find it far from the sanctuary of his heart at any time or place. Tolstoy has a

parable which teaches my point. He tells of a man who, pursued by wild beasts, climbs a tree. A fierce bear climbs after him, and he crawls far on a branch that overhangs a pit in which poisonous serpents writhe and hiss. Fairly rotten position, what? And one that should monopolise his attention, but does not. The branch is actually beginning to break beneath his weight, when he notices on a leaf near his face a spot of honey left by a bee. He puts out his tongue and licks it up. Human nature, says Tolstoy, is like that. I'm sure it is. Our lads in the hell of the world war behaved so, and I've seen everybody behaving so all my life. Human nature has a wonderful capacity for joy, and never forgets it.

SOME MIGHT BE HAPPIER.

Of course it is true that some people, without any change of circumstances, but merely a change of mind, could easily be happier than they are. "We are," as Miss Underhill truly says, "fitted for correspondence with a wider, richer world, a more real order than that in which we suppose ourselves to dwell." That is well put, but obscure unless you ponder it. The order in which you suppose yourself to dwell is often unreal. Talking of my travels to one Hongkong resident. I remember, he said how nice it must be to see foreign countries. He, alas, had come straight out to Hongkong, and never been anywhere else. I pointed out that Hongkong is a fascinatingly foreign country, but discovered that he couldn't see it, and had not seen it since his first, fresh sensations were worn down by familiarity. It is possible to see it afresh every morning. It has never staled for me, and its street scenes are a perpetual interest of mine. Coming out of a morning is to me like landing on a foreign shore; there's always something new and strange and jolly. It would be affection to pretend that I am not aware that some men do not get as much fun out of it all as I do; and I have thought much about why that should be so. I fancy the solution lies in those words of Miss Underhill: that they "dwell in an unreal order, that is to say, that they manufacture for themselves an unreal horizon, and miss the wonders about their feet. Perhaps they live too much in plans for the future, and so miss the present. A man who is "marking time" till he can go Home must lose much of Hongkong's charm. A man who is thinking intently of what he will do a year, a week, or an hour hence, must slide unobserved through the living now. Well, that's bad, and I think Jesus must have meant something like that in the advice to take no thought for the morrow—advice that puzzles many good and prudent folk. "Don't cross bridges till you come to 'em." Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you. Quit worrying. Circumspice. There are pleasures in anticipation that I cannot honestly deny; but they, often entail correspondingly heavy disappointments. There are joys of retrospection in which, being old, and having had more than my share of fun, I revel. But the joys of contemplation—Here and Now—those are the joys you should grab. They're the real ones. You needn't be an artist to appreciate form and colour. You are not obliged to be a poet to cultivate the sense of wonder. And it isn't necessary to be able to see the humour of the incongruous. All these things await your pleasure—Form, Colour, Wonder, Fun. Help yourselves. Stop calling Hongkong a dull hole. Come out of your unreal world, and look-see this real and jolly one in which the richa coolies and the mynabs and I live. In short, wake up, and live in Hongkong, rather than in the melancholy dream that must be yours if you feel as Evelyn Underhill says you do. This only to whom it concerns: I know that; even if you do not announce it. Else why be such regular attenders of the synagoge of "Adversarius," whose preachment most of the time is "Cheerio"?

VANITAS VANITATEM.

Talking of Einstein—no; honest, I'm not going to debate that again—but talking of Einstein, how do you like these crisp lines by Thoreau? Mea say they know many things; But lo! They have taken wings. The arts and sciences And a thousand appliances; The wind that blows, Is all that anybody knows.

THAT PASTORAL THINGUMBOR.

What a bitter letter that was in Wednesday's *China Mail*, drawing a contrast between the Bishop's (or his following's) desire for an expensive episcopal ring and thingumbob and the attempted suicide of some of Hongkong's very poor. Perhaps not altogether a quite fair letter, some will say. Yet such reflections are often forced upon us. I am reminded of a passage by E.V. Lucas, in "Verena in the Midst," where someone at a State banquet saw a Bishop

in purple evening dress, and said "he looked an astonishingly long way from Bethlehem."

ENGLISH AS HONGKONGER.

Knowing my pleasure in such things, a friend sends me in a letter just received from a Chinese youth who, apparently, had left his service to take up a job less satisfactory. By the date it must have been written in a downpour of rain, yet it begins: "As the time grinding fast away and the weather so pleasant." He apologises for not calling on his former master, "owing to my essential works carried day-by-day without having a leisure time." He is "deeply remembering" certain moneys lent "after being money pressed," but his present wage "nearly not supplying of my family," repayment must be deferred. He wants to come back, at a higher wage. "As regard to my present situation there is no good to me and I find out its work being not improved to my life in the future career. I beg most respectfully to offer you to give a good looking after me highly paid before under your services and you are aware that I was old employee so that my character has been known well in your consideration. Hoping this request is written to trouble you and much pardon."

That young man will yet write for the newspapers, I'm sure.

BLOWING BUBBLES.

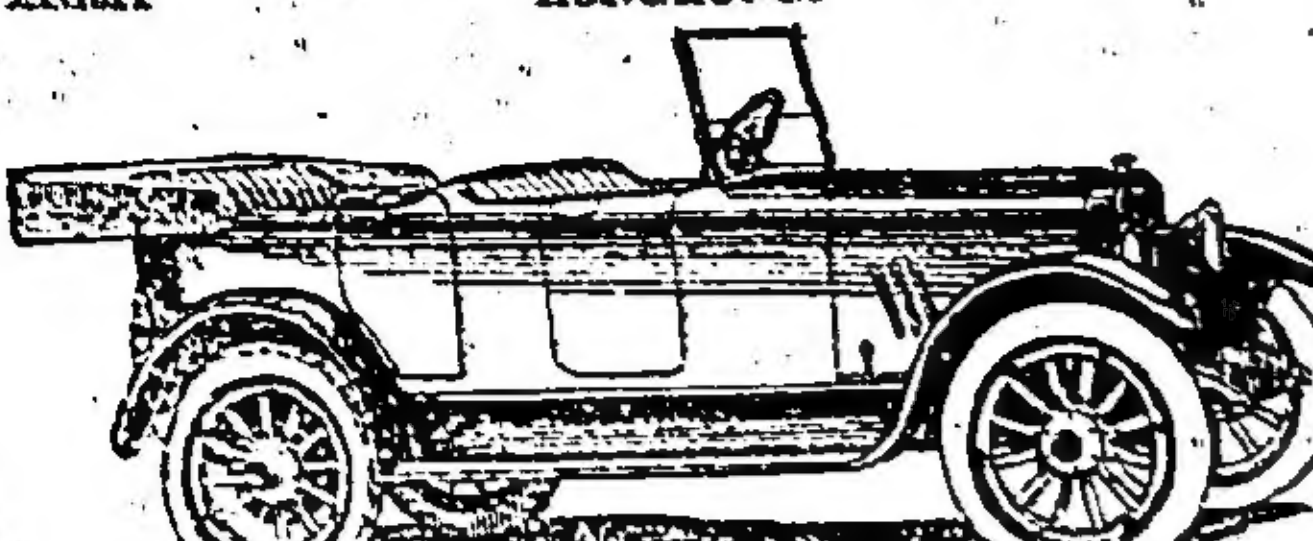
Thursday's *Telegraph* had an editorial about a Canton bubble bursting. Having played "sedulous ape" to the *China Mail* by saying over again in an undistinguished way what our lads had already well said, it has the cheek to talk of "bustling bubbles" who laid this trail of foolish rhapsody. If they were entirely foolish, how comes it to blame our Government for them? It does that in effect, though it does in one place say "we are not inclined to think that the blame for that mystery lies on the Government so much as it does on others who, at the very outset of the Governor's visit to the north, began asking questions and making conjectures." See why that sentence was penned? The *Telegraph* remembered that the *China Mail* was the first to call effective attention to the mysteriousness of the affair. That was journalism—a little Puckish perhaps, but quite good journalism. Does the *Telegraph* presume to criticize it? If so, behold its qualifications! "Even yet there has been no official explanation of the Peking visit. That it was purely departmental, we have good grounds for believing. What on earth does 'purely departmental' mean? What can be the 'good grounds' for talking such arrant nonsense! How can a visit to Peking by a Hongkong governor be 'departmental' in any sense of the word? Peking isn't in his department. I can really claim to have 'good grounds' for believing that the *Telegraph* was, as usual, talking through its topee, talking childishly."

May I say that the *China Mail*, having done most to force the very necessary assurance to the Cantonese (and so saved Hongkong's already dull trade from the extra handicap of a boycott) has not in my opinion thereby exhausted its duties. It still owes something to the Hongkong people. Have they no right to have such mysterious occurrences explained? It does not come within our Governor's ordinary departmental work to go off in a warship to Peking. Other governors did not do it. A smart newspaperman (remember the Blowitz story?) is obliged to take notice of such unusual occurrences. If the Government does not like guesses and rumours, and has nothing to hide, it can very easily and simply stop them. In this case it was unfortunate that the circumstances were such as to give rise to mischievous rumours; but that was all the more reason for the Government being the more promptly and frankly communicative. Every circumstance of the incident has gone home now, and certain Members of Parliament are on the qui vive, so that even if there was anything more than "departmental" behind, they cannot now get away with it.

(Continued on Page 5.)

Mr. B. Nunn, acting District Judge, Singapore, delivered judgment in the case in which Mr. H. W. L. Tottenham, late of the Argban Company, Ltd., stood charged with having committed criminal breach of trust in respect of \$5,750 belonging to the company between March 2, 1920, and January 31, 1921; alternatively with criminal breach of trust in respect of \$11,705 84, between the same dates. The judge held that the charges made against Mr. Tottenham had not been established and acquitted him, and Mr. Tottenham was the recipient of many congratulations. Mr. Shelley-Thompson, who defended him, asked for the costs to be paid, by the prosecution under Section 432 D. Criminal Procedure Code. But this was disallowed.

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HONGKONG BANK.
INCREASE OF CAPITAL.
AUTHORIZED BY SHAREHOLDERS.

Resolutions authorising the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to increase its capital up to \$50,000,000 were carried at an extraordinary meeting of the Shareholders of the Corporation held in the City Hall at noon today.

The chairman of directors (Mr. G. T. M. Edkins), presided and there were present: Messrs. G. M. Doddwell, D. G. M. Bernard, A. S. Gubbay, A. O. Lang, W. L. Patterson, J. A. Plummer, H. P. White (directors), A. G. Stephen (chief manager) and the following shareholders: Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, Sir Ellis Kadoorie, Hon. H. E. Pollock, K. C. Hon. Chau Siu Ki, and Messrs. A. H. Barlow, J. McArthur, V. M. Graybourn, G. B. Dunnett, C. G. Adams, A. V. Apper, F. Bevington, H. Birkett, L. Dunbar, E. J. Chapman, A. Murdoch, F. C. Hall, H. Humphreys, F. C. Potts, T. E. Pearce, R. Robert, G. Miskin, E. J. Gray, R. M. Dyer, D. J. Lewis, A. M. Williams, H. Hancock, Lo Cheung-shin, A. M. Bowers-Smith, J. H. Wallace, Chan Shu Ming, C. Edmunds, Ho Kam Tong, E. Ormiston, A. S. D. Conland, Ho Leung, Ho Cheuk, W. B. Kennett, A. R. Austin, A. P. Samy, Lee Kam Tsun, Li Tse Fong, Lo Man Hin, W. G. Joseph, V. Benjamin, Fong Lang, Ng Yuk Chi, J. Bell Irving, Lo Chung Wan, Ho Wing, A. B. Raworth, Mok Kon Sang, Mok Man Chee, A. Findlay Smith, J. F. Grose, D. V. Stevenson, A. D. Gre, A. S. Ellis, H. W. Birt.

The Chairman:—Gentlemen, there being a sufficient number of shareholders present and a sufficient number of shares represented to form a quorum under the conditions of the Deed of Settlement, I will now ask the Chief Manager to read the notice calling the meeting.

The Chief Manager having read the notice the Chairman said:—Gentlemen, you have been invited to attend today to consider proposals in connection with the increase of the Bank's Capital and, if you approve of these proposals, to pass certain resolutions necessary to give effect to them.

The question of the increase of our Capital is one which has occupied the attention of the Court of Directors for some time. At the General Meeting of Shareholders held on the 20th February last, my predecessor in the chair in referring to the proposed increase of Capital called attention to the steady increase of our business, the expansion of Far Eastern trade, and the widening field for the employment of Foreign Capital in China. The circular letter of the 12th March last, which has been in your hands for some time, fully sets forth the scheme for the increase of Capital and I need only add that your Directors are confirmed in their opinion that it is a good thing alike for the Shareholders and for the Customers of the Bank.

The necessary resolutions will now be put before you one by one and an opportunity given you to enquire into or discuss any point which may be in your view call for explanation.

The Chairman:—I now beg to propose the first Resolution:—That the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation be and they are hereby requested and authorised by and on behalf of the shareholders of the Company to take the steps necessary for the introduction of an Ordinance into the Legislative Council of the Colony of Hongkong and for the enactment of the same by the Governor of Hongkong with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof to effect the amendments necessary to the Ordinances under which the Company is incorporated and carrying on business so as to allow of the capital of the Company being from time to time increased from 20 millions of dollars to the present authorised capital of the Company to 50 millions of dollars.

Seconded by Mr. R. M. Dyer and carried unanimously.

The Chairman:—I now beg to propose the second Resolution:—That the Capital of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation be forthwith increased from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 by the creation of 40,000 New Shares of \$125 each to be issued at the price of \$70 on the terms after mentioned. Shareholders on the Eastern Registers to pay for their allotments at the rate of ex-

THEATRE ROYAL.
MISCHA ELMAN.
ANOTHER BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE.

Mischa Elman's second performance in the Theatre Royal last night gave further proof of the artist's mastery skill. Playing with the same magic touch and wonderful technique he again roused his audience to an unprecedented pitch of enthusiasm. Mere words cannot describe the exquisite beauty of the various numbers on the programme as interpreted by the great maestro with his wonderful Stradivarius. Mr. Arthur Loesser, who again proved himself an accompanist of superlative merit, contributed in no small measure to the triumphal success of another notable performance.

The programme was as follows, but again the applause of a crowded house was so clamorous that the artist could do no less than submit two encores—Rodion by Beethoven-Kreisler just before the interval and Minuet by Beethoven at the end of the programme:—

PART I.
1. Concerto... Mendelssohn.
Allegro Appassionato, Andante.
Allegro Molto Vivace.
2. Prize Song... Wagner-Wilhelmy Hungarian.
Dance No. 17 Brahms-Joachim.
Nocturne... Chopin-Wilhelmy.
Guitarre... Moszkowski.

PART II.
1. Rondo.
Capriccioso, St. Saens.
2. Meditation from
"Thais"... Massenet.
3. Souvenir de
Moscow... Wieniawski.

At the conclusion of a brilliant performance Mischa Elman was accorded an ovation if anything greater than which marked his first performance here.

To-night a crowded house is assured for Mischa Elman's final performance as it is improbable that he will visit Hongkong again.

QUEEN'S EXAMPLE.
HUMANE DECISION.
NO WILD BIRD PLUMAGE IN HER HATS.

A Wayfarer in *The Nation* and the Athenaeum states that Queen Mary has recently given order to her milliners that no plumage of wild birds is to be used for her hats.

The Queen's decision has evidently been dictated by that humanity, which has always characterised her actions.

Her Majesty has been noted for the simplicity of her dress, and recently the hats which she has favoured have been small toques. Some years ago she wore ostrich feathers in her hats, and, of course, the trade in ostrich feathers does not entail any cruelty.

She has personally demonstrated that it is not necessary for women to adorn themselves with feathers torn from living birds, in order to look elegant and distinguished.

Among the materials chosen by the Queen for the hats which she has worn this season have been blue and silver tissue, crepe, shaded mauve, and violet silk. She has shown a preference for flowered toques, which she has worn at several recent public functions.

Princess Mary has a taste for picture hats trimmed with flowers.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Mr. Perkins is gazetted Director of Public Works as from June 1.

The prohibition against importing foreign dye stuffs into Hongkong is removed.

Mr. Mok Kon-sang is appointed a life member of the Court of the H.K. University.

Two cases of plague, one Portuguese and the other Chinese, one imported case of small-pox, Chinese, and two cases of plague, both Chinese, were reported yesterday. None of the cases was fatal.

Kinema patrons are reminded that the "Search for a Sinner" will be continued at the Coronet Theatre to-day and to-morrow after which this picture will no longer be seen locally. It is a capital picture admirably portrayed.

A record season for football is anticipated this year. Over 250 matches have been arranged under the auspices of the Hongkong Football Association. For the 25 weeks of the season, this shows an average of 10 matches a week. In Division I of the League, 73 in Division II, 133 in the United Service League, 43, and in the Hongkong Football Club Challenge Shield 8 matches have been arranged.

ADVERSARIA.
(Continued from Page 4.)

OUR INFANTILE MORTALITY.
Why all the excitement because Mrs. Neville Rolf made a mistake in calculating our infant mortality, and gave the figures of our rainfall instead? It isn't as if such scandals could do us any harm. Such entirely false statements are unlikely to stop infants coming here, because new-born babies seldom read the newspapers. Nobody knows, and nobody can form any reasonable approximation to, our infantile death rate, because all the births are not registered. As to Mrs. Neville Rolf being "ashamed of being an Englishwoman," why should that annoy us? We never boasted that she was. After mixing up the figures of our annual rainfall with her infantile mortality calculations, let us hope that she will not be too proud to be a more careful woman. It is largely our own fault that strangers can come in and malign our "statistics," confusing babies and the quackeries and rainfall and adding in the height of the War Memorial, because we have no business to pretend to have "statistics" at all. So long as people can pour in from Canton at any time for a few cents, all our censuses and statistics must be mere approximations. We do not know what our adult death rate really is, much less our infantile mortality. Do you know how many people are killed by motor cars every year here? I don't, exactly, but it makes me ashamed of being a Hongkong Englishman. Now let the officials squelch me as they have squelched Mrs. Whitsanname Rolf. They can't do it.

"TO SEE AMERICA."
MANILA STOWAWAYS.
VERY NICE BUT NOT DONE.

Before Magistrate Orme this morning, Inspector Spear of the Water Police charged a Portuguese and seven Filipinos with having stowed away from Manila on the s.s. "Wenatchee."

The Portuguese and two Filipinos said that they signed on in the ship in America for a round trip, but when they reached Manila, they were discharged. The other five defendants said that they had no connection with the ship. Their object in stowing away was to "see America."

The second officer of the ship admitted that the first two men had signed on for a round trip, but on arrival at Manila, they demanded their money and voluntarily signed off. Consequently they have no more claim on the ship. With regard to the third defendant, he had no record of his having been on the ship's articles.

Inspector Spear said that the American consul had undertaken to take the men in hand after they had been dealt with by the Court.

The defendants were sentenced to 21 days' hard labour each.

The first defendant asked permission to interview the Portuguese consul, "because I have a permit from the British consul at Manila to come to Hongkong."

The Magistrate: That is very nice, but you cannot travel on a ship without a ticket. You can see the consul after 21 days.

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"DUNERA"	8,400	18th June	Singapore, Colombo & Bombay.
"DELTA"	8,000	23rd June	MARSHALL, LONDON & A'werp.
"SYRIA"	7,000	23rd July	MARSHALL, LONDON & A'werp.
"KALYAN"	8,000	24th Aug.	MARSHALL, LONDON & A'werp.
"KARIMIR"	9,000	19th Aug.	MARSHALL, LONDON & A'werp.

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"ARATOON APCAR"	4,500	2nd June	Calcutta, via Singapore Penang and Bangkok.
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"ST. ALBANS"	8,000	31st May	Sandakan, Thursday Island, Townsville, Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne.
"EASTERN"	4,400	26th June	
"KANOWRA"	7,000	26th July	

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"PLASSY"	7,348	31st May	Shanghai only.
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KATORI MARU ... Friday, 17th June, at 11 a.m.
KASHIMA MARU (omit Manila) ... Tuesday, 15th July, at 11 a.m.

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NIEKO MARU ... Tuesday, 19th July, at 11 a.m.

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TOYAMA MARU ... End of June.

SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS via Cape.

AWA MARU ... Saturday, 18th June.

BOMBAY & COLOMBO via Singapore.

TATSUNO MARU ... Friday, 30th June.

CALCUTTA & RANGOON via Singapore & Penang.

MALACCA MARU ... Monday, 6th June.

JAPAN PORTS—Nagasaki, Kobe & Yokohama.

NIEKO MARU ... Friday, 17th June, at 11 a.m.

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EAGA MARU ... Friday, 27th May, at 11 a.m.
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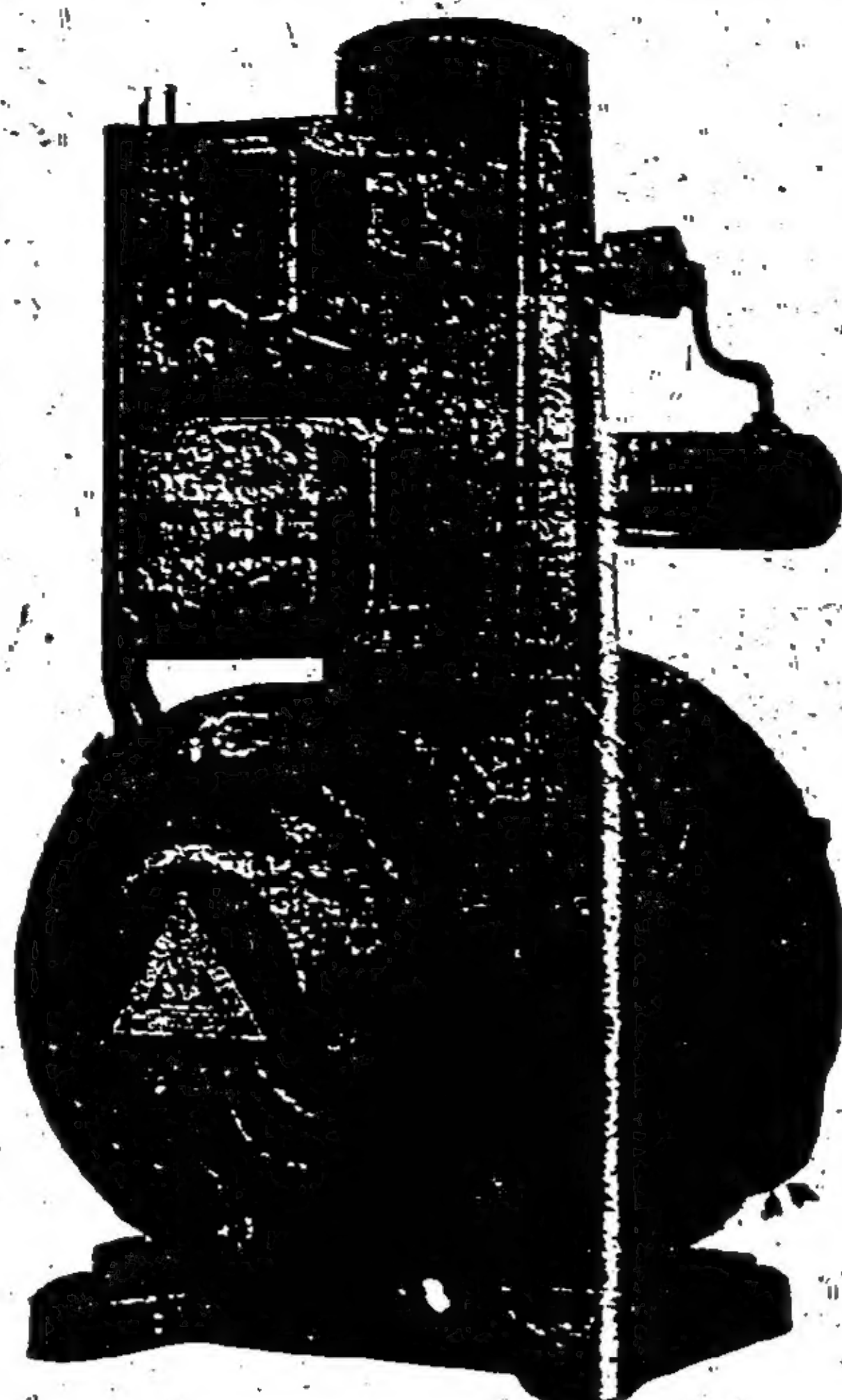
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SUPERSTITIONS.

FINGER-NAILS.

Among primitive peoples the finger-
nails shared with the hair and the
teeth that mystical and actual con-
nection with man which subsisted
after they had been separated from
the body of their owner. This be-
lief was continued down through the
classic ages as a part of the super-
naturalism of the times; became an
accepted part of the magic of the
Middle Ages and is found surviving
to-day in the form of popular super-
stitions.

When and where to cut the
nails was an important matter with
the ancient Romans. Like the
hair they were never to be cut at sea
except as an offering to the gods in
dire extremity.

In the United States there is a ge-
neral superstition that it is unlucky
to cut the nails on Friday. Friday
has been regarded as an unlucky day
ever since the Crucifixion—a day
upon which no important matter
should be undertaken—and in man
still lingers the subconscious feeling,
inherited from old, that cutting the
nails is an important matter.

In some sections it is thought that
hiding the parings of one's nails in a
hole in a tree and plugging up the
hole is a specific against toothache.
The nearest ancestor of this supersti-
tion is the custom of the Flamen
Dialis, the Roman priest consecrated
to Jupiter, of burying his nail-parings
under a tree—patently an offering to
the tree-god. When you hide your
nail-parings in a hole in a tree to stop
the toothache you are merely
performing an act of tree-worship
sacrificing in hope the tree-god will
stop that "thumping jumping pain
in your jaw". And tree-worship was
old long before the Flamen Dialis
came on the stage.

The Dutch Grain and Seed Import-
ers, Oil Merchants, and General Mer-
chants, through their respective as-
sociations, have sent a request to the
Dutch Government to modify the
reading of the Shipping Bill in defining
the status of a bill of lading as follows:
"The bill of lading is a document
wherein the captain declares that he
has received certain goods on board
his ship, to be carried to a named
destination, and to be there delivered
to a named person, together with the
conditions under which the goods will
be delivered."

MUI TSAI KIDNAPPED.

WOMAN SENT TO JAIL.

Before Magistrate Lindsell yester-
day afternoon, a "sew-sew amah"
was charged with having kidnapped a
14-year old *mui tsai*, and a man
was charged, with aiding and abet-
ting her.

Mr. H. L. Denny, with him In-
spector Tim Murphy, of the S.C.A.,
prosecuted for the girl's master.
The defendants were not represented
by a solicitor.

Mr. Denny said his client was a
Chinese merchant in Hongkong and
Macao. He had had the *mui tsai*
since last December. It was alleged
that the girl was enticed away by the
two defendants and taken to Canton,
and subsequently to Macao. At the
latter place the *mui tsai* was recognis-
ed by some friends of the complain-
ant's and they arranged a bogus pur-
chase of the girl so that she might
be brought back to Hongkong. The
complainant was notified and was
awaiting the arrival of the party at
the wharf, with a district watchman
who arrested the defendants.

The girl said that on April 26, she
met the woman defendant in the
street and got into conversation with
her. The woman, who was joined a
little later by the male defendant,
prevented the witness from returning
to her master. They took her to
Canton. The man paid the fares.
From Canton she was immediately
taken to Macao. Here she was told
by the defendants that her next
destination would be Siam where she
would be sold as a slave.

After the woman with whom the
defendants had arranged the sale of
the girl had given evidence, the
female defendant said that the girl
was willing to be sold as a slave. As
a matter of fact, the girl implored
to be taken away as she feared her
master was going to sell her into
prostitution.

The Magistrate: That has nothing
to do with the case. The child is
not yours to sell.

The woman was sentenced to
three months' hard labour. The
male defendant was discharged be-
cause at the S.C.A. the girl's state-
ment more or less exonerated him.

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G.V.T. YIELD TO PUBLIC OPINION.

PROFITEERS LOSE EXCUSE.

VARIOUS COMMENTS.

Our Saturday contributor, the renowned Adversarius, does not know everything, and is far from infallible. He has sometimes said that agitation here—manifestation of public opinion—is of no more use, under the system, than ploughing the sand.

The news we gave in yesterday's China Mail seems to contradict him flatly. The Government, owing to the public hostility to the re-imposition of the super-house tax, has decided to drop it.

It is usual to collect the views and opinions of prominent citizens on such occasions, but the rain, and one thing and another, has made our interviewers lazy. So we give here the ideas of the various members of our literary staff, which should answer just as well.

"Adversarius" not having come in, could not be interviewed. You will perhaps get his comments next week. Our office pessimist said:

So friend McGuigan who prayed at the meeting of protest against the increase in house rates that he might be deprived of his "uncomfortable feeling" that the Hongkong Government would take about as much notice of us as if we were so many little boys digging sand on the seashore when the tide is out" has had his prayer answered. Events have proved that the need he felt uncomfortable about the issue at all. The Government, it seems, had its telescope carefully trained upon us when we were gambling in our juvenile fashion among the shells and seaweed and the sturdiness of our sand castle has impressed them more than we thought. But I, I am a suspicious mortal and I find it hard to believe that this rose hasn't got a thorn somewhere about its person. It is so novel, so unusual, this sudden bending, under the storm of public pressure that instinctively I look round for some ulterior motive and I think I have found one. Wasn't there another meeting held that same afternoon and didn't that meeting carry resolutions clamouring for constitutional reform. Wasn't something mentioned about an unofficial majority and a petition to the House of Commons. Yes, indeed. Can it be then that the Government have heard Byron's "A little bird that sings"

The people by and by will be the stronger." Or is this a sop to Cerberus on the principle of letting the people think they govern that they may be the easier governed. I am like Mr. McGuigan. I hope time will prove me wrong.

The Romantic (as we call him) jotted these dithyrambs down and shyly shoved them at us:

And at that time the people were sadly tried because the Rulers did wish to further tax their tents, for many were already hard bitten.

And "The Man in the Street" who had a large following, did revile bitterly, muttering in his beard "No extra 7 per cent for mine."

But the Rulers persisted. In their councils they decided that the tax should be imposed. For the Rulers were in sore straits, having spent much money in building roads for their chariots and not having the wherewithal to replenish their hoard.

And the people did grieve. Yes, the very Taipans of the Peak did descend from their Olympus and make common sorrow.

But the Rulers hardened their hearts, for the voice of the people was as one crying in the wilderness.

Therefore did they say "Behold we have a cry full of tragedy."

And it came to pass that when the time was right that the money should be collected, the people held a solemn fast and did congregate together that their voices might be heard.

There did they air their woes. "For" said one, "if I pay this tax how shall I buy meat?" And another answered him saying "For ten years

have I not visited the land of my fathers through L.O.F. If I pay more my hopes have gone." [And L.O.F. interpreted is "Lack of Funds"]

Yet another did bewail himself that he would have to sell his chariot, but the people reviled him saying "Had we less chariots perchance we had less taxes."

And he went away and went bitterly, for, next to his wife, did he love his chariot.

These and many other things did the people say unto the Rulers to remit the tax.

And the Rulers did so which was passing strange.

And the people did rejoice giving thanks to their gods, whom they called Cra and Kra. Also did they praise their Rulers for hearkening to their voice.

But the Rulers did smile and said "We must tax something, for we need funds; also that our faces may not be lost."

And they did debate in secret, but whether it was on "income" tax or "come-in tax," the people were ignorant.

In fact so busy were they with their feasts that their ointment contained no fly.

Nor heeded they the Prophet who counselled them to keep their eyes skinned, for their adversary the Landlord went raging through the Colony seeking whom he might "do" for the extra money he had not to pay.

His brow puckered with indecision, his lips parted in dismay, The Bright Reporter, Youth was embarrassed when asked for his views. However, after hesitating an hour or two, until nearly too late for the printer, he weighed in with this:

Why all this fuss over a matter so simple? The Government with its artificial, official, majority has passed the resolution, and the Government with its official majority—their not to reason why—would rescind it?

Could anything be more simple? But a great and glorious victory has been won. What about Mr. Pollock's position in the matter?

Of course he had voted for the resolution. True he did so without question and he took a leading part in the agitation to have the offensive measure withdrawn. Of course he will vote in favour of the Government's new resolution at the next Legislative Council meeting.

Here you have a Government that passed a resolution on certain grounds, depleted treasury and so forth. A few weeks later with those grounds still as good as on the day when they were first used to get the measure passed, the Government rescinds the resolution (the mere announcement of its intention amounting to that). If the necessity for the new taxation had been as urgent as the Government represented when the resolution was passed no mere agitation would have secured its withdrawal. A resolution passed only to be rescinded a week or two later should never have been passed at all. So much money, time, and temper lost.

H'm! It reads rather like a Telegraph leader. Let's drop it.

A Chinese youth attending a school in Elgin Street, was this morning charged before Magistrate Orme, at the instance of Sub Inspector Wills, of No. 7 Police Station, with the unlawful possession in his house in Connaught Road West, of three daggers. The defendant said that they were not daggers but ordinary clasp knives. The Inspector said that on information received, he secured a search warrant and raided the house at 6.30 this morning. Besides the daggers, he found a revolver torch which was evidently meant to be used as a revolver with which to frighten people. The defendant referred to the compradore of P. & O. as a relative and elected to call him as a witness. The Magistrate remanded the case until Monday.

FOR A LAME BACK.

WHEN you have pains or lameness in the back, bathe the parts with Chamberlain's Pain Balm twice a day, massaging with the palm of the hand for five minutes at each application. Then dampen a piece of flannel slightly with this liniment and bind it on over the part of pain. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

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Telegraphic Communications with Gap Rock Lighthouse is restored.

Telegraphic Communication with Wagon Lighthouse is restored.

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From To

SATURDAY, MAY 28.

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SUNDAY, MAY 29.

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EUROPE via Suez (Letters and Newspapers London 21st & 23rd April). Glasgow.

OUTWARD MAILS.

For To

SATURDAY, MAY 28.

Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe, Osaka, and Hongkong. 3 p.m.
 Bangkok, Saigon, and Hongkong. 4 p.m.
 Singapore, Malacca, and Penang. 5 p.m.
 Japan. 5 p.m.
 Straits, Bangkok, Calcutta, and Aden. 5 p.m.
 Shanghai and North China. 5 p.m.
 Peking and Haiphong. 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 29.

Tokyo and Yokohama. 9 a.m.
 Swatow, Amoy and Keelung. 9 a.m.

MONDAY, MAY 30.

Java via Batavia. 11 a.m.
 Swatow, Amoy and Keelung. 11 a.m.
 Straits and Bangkok. 11 a.m.
 Weihaiwei and Hainan. 11 a.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 31.

Swatow, Shanghai and North China. 9 a.m.
 Swatow and Bangkok. 9 a.m.
 Swatow, Shanghai and North China. 9 a.m.
 Swatow, Shanghai and North China. 9 a.m.
 Swatow, Shanghai and North China. 9 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1.

Hongkong and Haiphong. 8 a.m.
 Shanghai, North China, Japan, Canada, United States, Central and South America, and EUROPE via VIO. 8 a.m.
 TOSIA, B.O. Registration 8.45 a.m.
 Letters 9.30 a.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2.

Swatow, Amoy and Keelung. 9 a.m.
 Swatow, Amoy and Keelung. 9 a.m.
 Swatow, Amoy and Keelung. 9 a.m.
 Swatow, Amoy and Keelung. 9 a.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3.

Philippine Islands. 9 a.m.
 Swatow, Amoy and Keelung. 11 a.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4.

Shanghai and North China. 3 p.m.
 Hongkong and Haiphong. 3 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 6.

Sundays. 11 a.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7.

Swatow, Amoy and Keelung. 11 a.m.
 Shanghai and North China. 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8.

Amoy and Philippine Islands. 3 p.m.

*Correspondence bearing vessel's name only.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OUR BIRTH STATISTICS.

[To the Editor of the "China Mail."]

Sir,—I regret that there was an error in my statement at the last Sanitary Board meeting with reference to Infantile Mortality in Hongkong. In the last paragraph of my statement I should have said that out of 1,456 births attended by registered midwives during the first four months of 1921 there were 857 females born to every 100 males, whereas by error I made it appear that 85.7 per cent of these births were of females.

You may care to publish this correction.

Yours faithfully,
 W. PEARSE,
 Medical Officer of Health,
 Hongkong, May 28, 1921.

SHANTUNG PROBLEM.

PORT OF TSINGTAO.

JAPAN SUGGESTS INTERNATIONAL PORT.

JAPANESE MINISTER'S VIEWS.

Washington, May 16.—The establishment of an international port at Tsingtao is contemplated by Japan as soon as she can induce the Chinese Government to undertake negotiations for the relinquishment of Japanese control of the entire province of Shantung. It is explained in Japanese quarters here that the internationalisation of the port was insisted upon by Japan because the maintenance of a Japanese settlement at Tsingtao might invite demands from other maritime Powers for similar concessions which it was believed was impossible because Tsingtao was too small. The Japanese propose to settle the question of the control of the mixed settlement by inviting the Chinese Government to establish gendarmerie of sufficient strength to ensure their ability to keep off the bandits who are swarming in Shantung.—Reuter.

Note.—The foregoing U.S. Navy Radio message was received in Peking on May 17 but was not picked up in Shanghai. On May 18, Reuter's Peking correspondent telegraphed to Shanghai the official information that Mr. Obata, the Japanese Minister to China, prior to his departure for Japan at the beginning of May, had remarked to the Chinese Government that Japan intended making representations to the Powers concerning the internationalisation of Tsingtao, and that if the Powers concurred, Japan would make a definite proposal to China to that effect. Reuter's correspondent added that the Chinese Government had heard nothing of the matter since.

In this connection, Mr. Obata's statement to a representative of the Osaka Mainichi on landing at Moji on May 13, is of special interest. "Referring to the Shantung question, the Minister said that, as declared by the Japanese Foreign Office some time ago, Japan is ready to negotiate with the Chinese Government for the settlement of the problem at any time, if that Government so desires. China, however, is still undecided, and the matter is in abeyance."

The reason why China hesitates to open negotiations with Japan is, in Mr. Obata's opinion, that she is apprehensive of very severe conditions being formulated by Japan for the settlement of the problem. The question will be easily solved if Japan draws up a very fair proposal and presents it to the Peking Government with the previous approval of the Powers. It admits of no doubt that China will endorse such a course, if it is adopted by the Japanese Government.—Reuter.

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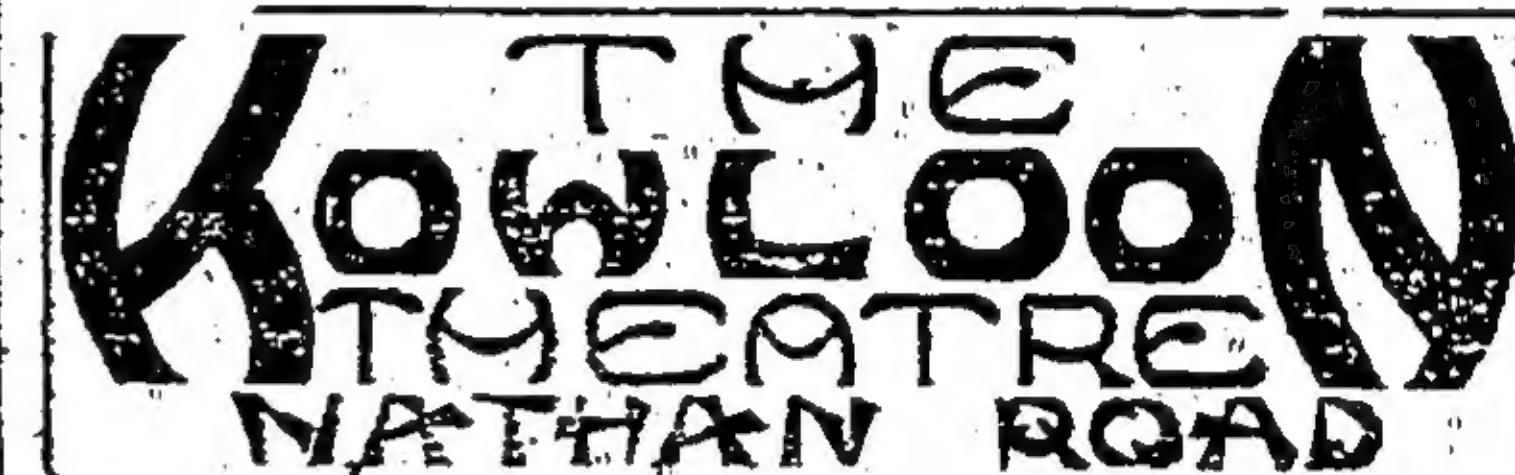
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HONGKONG TRADE.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT.

Cotton piece goods and fancy cotton goods.—A considerable business in Grey Shirtings and moderate sales of White Shirtings have been effected during the interval at satisfactory rates. Some transactions in Fancies are reported at unremunerative prices as compared with replacing values.

Cotton Yarn.—Moderate sales were effected and values ruled just a shade easier. The state of political uncertainty that exists between the "Kwang" provinces is still an obstruction to free business.

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 No. 10s \$135/172. No. 12s \$145/178. No. 16s \$185/210. No. 20s \$190/225.

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Woolens.—Small sales of Camlets have been made otherwise there is practically no change in the market.

Raw Cottons.—Market has ruled fairly steady and values may be quoted as follows:—Indian grades at \$213/243 per picul. Chinese grades at \$24/33 per picul.

Metals.—Quiet market with little business.

Yellow Metal.—Nominal Nil. Flour market.—Stock: About 200,000 sacks.

Quotations: American Patent \$4.75 per sack, American Cut off \$3.15 per sack, American Straight \$3.15 per sack, Shanghai Flour 2nd \$3.60 per sack.

Petroleum Products.—No change. Sundries and Coals.—Market steady but quiet.

Java Sugar.—Market weak. Philippine Sugar.—Market declining. Saltpetre.—Stock 3,500 Bags. Market steady.

Printed and Published for the Proprietors by the Editor, GEORGE WILLIAM CADE BURNETT, at No. 5, Wyndham Street, Hongkong.